

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Robert Carrasco Gamez,

Plaintiff,

v.

Charles L. Ryan, Lance R. Hetmer, Greg
Fizer, Kathy Ingulli, Unknown Barnes,
Blaine Moore, Unknown Quintero, D
Gidcumb, L Brass, V Cisneros, Karyn
Klausner, Dawn Northup, Dennis Kendall,
Stacy Crabtree, Unknown Washburn,
Antoinette Gatlin, Unknown Gornal,
Unknown Winterbauer, Unknown Randal,
Unknown Garcia,

Defendants.

No. CV 13-01757-PHX- JJT (DMF)

**REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN J. TUCHI:

Before the Court is Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend (Doc. 42). This matter is before the undersigned on referral from the District Judge. The Court has a continuing obligation to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against an officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The screening requirement extends to proposed amended complaints. Because a magistrate judge cannot decide a "matter dispositive of a claim or defense or a prisoner petition challenging the conditions of confinement," Rule 72(b)(1), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the undersigned recommends as follows.

1 **I. Background**

2 Plaintiff filed a prisoner civil rights complaint and a motion for leave to proceed in
 3 this matter *in forma pauperis* on August 27, 2013. In an order (Doc. 9) entered March
 4 24, 2014, the Court granted the motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and
 5 dismissed the complaint with leave to amend. Plaintiff docketed a First Amended
 6 Complaint (Doc. 16) and Second Amended Complaint (Doc. 27), both of which were
 7 dismissed with leave to amend (Docs. 24 and 28).

8 Plaintiff docketed a Third Amended Complaint (Doc. 29) on March 4, 2015. In a
 9 service order (Doc. 31) issued April 20, 2015, the Court dismissed without prejudice
 10 Counts One, Two, Four, and Five of the Third Amended Complaint, and dismissed
 11 without prejudice Defendants Ryan, Hetmer, Fizer, Quintero, Crabtree, Washburn,
 12 Gidcumb, Brass, Cisneros and Garcia. The Court ordered Defendant Gatlin to answer
 13 Count Three of the Third Amended Complaint, an allegation that Defendant Gatlin was
 14 deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff's serious medical needs, in violation of Plaintiff's
 15 Eighth Amendment rights. Service was executed on Defendant Gatlin on July 21, 2015
 16 (Doc. 44).

17 On June 12, 2015, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Leave to Amend (Doc. 42),
 18 attaching his proposed Fourth Amended Complaint ("FAC"). Because Plaintiff has
 19 docketed three prior complaints, Plaintiff is not entitled to amend his complaint without
 20 leave of the Court. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1).

21 **II. Standard for Granting or Denying a Motion to Amend**

22 Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 governs amendments to pleadings generally. Except when an
 23 amendment is pleaded as a "matter of course," as defined by the rule, "a party may
 24 amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written consent or the court's leave."
 25 Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Courts must "freely give leave when justice so requires." *Id.*
 26 Requests for leave are generally granted with "extreme liberality." *Moss v. U. S. Secret*
 27 *Serv.*, 572 F.3d 962, 972 (9th Cir. 2009) (citation omitted). However, granting a plaintiff
 28 leave to amend "is subject to the qualification that the amendment not cause undue

1 prejudice to the defendant, is not sought in bad faith, and is not futile.” *Bowles v. Reade*,
2 198 F.3d 752, 757 (9th Cir. 1999) (citation omitted).

3 The Prison Litigation Reform Act requires dismissal of allegations that fail to state
4 a claim upon which relief can be granted prior to ordering service of an amended
5 complaint on the added defendants. 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(c)(1); *see, e.g., O’Neal v. Price*,
6 531 F.3d 1146, 1153 (9th Cir. 2008). Futility of amendment is sufficient to justify denial
7 of a motion for leave to amend. *See Gordon v. City of Oakland*, 627 F.3d 1092, 1094
8 (9th Cir. 2010). A proposed amended complaint is futile if it would be immediately
9 “subject to dismissal” pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), for failure to state a claim on
10 which relief may be granted, accepting all of the facts alleged as true. *See Steckman v.*
11 *Hart Brewing, Inc.*, 143 F.3d 1293, 1298 (9th Cir. 1998). In screening complaints, the
12 Court must liberally construe an incarcerated *pro se* plaintiff’s complaint. *See, e.g.,*
13 *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976).

14 Plaintiff’s proposed FAC attempts to cure the deficiencies in two counts of his
15 Third Amended Complaint that were previously dismissed pursuant to the Court’s
16 Service Order at Doc. 31. Plaintiff attempts to cure his claim for threat to safety or
17 failure to protect and his procedural due process claim. Plaintiff’s proposed FAC also
18 seeks to add Charles L. Ryan, Director at ASPC-Florence, and D. Shamblin as defendants
19 in his claim for inadequate medical care.

20 Plaintiff alleges that he was an inmate at ASPC-Florence and on September 7,
21 2011, Plaintiff had to walk unescorted and handcuffed through the basement on his way
22 to recreation. Plaintiff claims that the basement area is dark and secluded and does not
23 have audio or visual surveillance. Plaintiff had to walk sideways between the door and
24 other inmate cells in order to pass through the narrow walkway. Plaintiff went to
25 recreation, apparently without incident, but when Plaintiff reached the narrow walkway
26 in the basement on his way back to his cell from recreation, he was immediately grabbed
27 by inmate Garcia, who pulled Plaintiff toward his cell. Garcia stabbed Plaintiff once in
28 the chest and once in the face and punched Plaintiff once in the back of Plaintiff’s head.

1 Plaintiff tried to escape, but Garcia held onto Plaintiff's handcuffs and continued to
2 assault him. Plaintiff saw Officer Cisneros running toward Plaintiff from the key control.
3 Plaintiff yelled for assistance, but Officer Cisneros began spraying Plaintiff with pepper
4 spray. Plaintiff felt an intense burning sensation, worsened by his asthma, which made
5 him feel as if his respiratory system has "collapsed."

6 Plaintiff was escorted to medical following the assault, where he was treated for
7 his stab wounds and given a breathing treatment. Plaintiff was cleared by medical and
8 advised by D. Shamblin, a registered nurse, that a doctor's appointment would be
9 scheduled the next morning to examine Plaintiff and provide pain medication. Despite
10 Plaintiff submitting several health needs requests seeking cleaning supplies to avoid
11 infection, Plaintiff was not treated again for his injuries for approximately twenty days.
12 Defendant Gatlin refused to provide treatment and was visibly upset because Plaintiff's
13 mother had called the Facility Health Administrator due to the visible infection and lack
14 of health care.

15 **III. Inadequate Medical Care**

16 The Court previously held that Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint sufficiently
17 stated a medical care claim against Defendant Gatlin. Plaintiff reasserts his claim for
18 inadequate medical care in Count One of his proposed FAC, and seeks to add Charles
19 Ryan and D. Shamblin, R.N., as defendants. The only facts Plaintiff adds in his proposed
20 amended complaint are that "[d]ue to inadequate health care staffing levels, Plaintiff was
21 'seen' by a Nurse Practitioner, such practice is attributed to Defendant Ryan's systemic
22 elimination of health care staffing positions in recent years. Defendant Ryan's failure to
23 actively recruit, hire, train, supervise and retain sufficient and competent health care staff
24 has resulted in a deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's health care needs." (Doc. 42 at 12).

25 With regard to a claim that a defendant violated the plaintiff's Eight Amendment
26 right to be free of cruel and unusual punishment with regard to a prisoner's medical
27 treatment, the plaintiff must show the defendant was "deliberately indifferent" to the
28 plaintiff's "serious medical need." *See, e.g., Cano v. Taylor*, 739 F.3d 1214, 1217 (9th

1 Cir. 2014). A prison official acts with “deliberate indifference . . . only if the [prison
2 official] knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health and safety.” *Gibson*
3 *v. County of Washoe*, 290 F.3d 1175, 1187 (9th Cir. 2002) (citation and internal quotation
4 marks omitted). Under this standard, the prison official must not only “be aware of facts
5 from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists,”
6 but that person “must also draw the inference.” *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 837
7 (1994). “If a [prison official] should have been aware of the risk, but was not, then the
8 [official] has not violated the Eighth Amendment, no matter how severe the risk.”
9 *Gibson*, 290 F.3d at 1188 (citation omitted). A “serious medical need exists if the failure
10 to treat a prisoner’s condition could result in further significant injury or the unnecessary
11 and wanton infliction of pain.” *McGuckin v. Smith*, 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992)
12 (citation and internal quotations omitted), *overruled on other grounds*, *WMX Techs., Inc.*
13 *v. Miller*, 104 F.3d 1133, 1136 (9th Cir. 1997). “Indifference may appear when prison
14 officials deny, delay or intentionally interfere with medical treatment, or it may be shown
15 by the way in which prison [officials] provide medical care.” *Jett*, 439 F.3d at 1096
16 (citations and internal quotation marks omitted). However, the alleged indifference to the
17 prisoner’s medical needs must be substantial; mere indifference, negligence, or even an
18 allegation of medical malpractice, is insufficient to state an Eight Amendment claim.
19 *Lemire v. California Dep’t of Corr.*, 726 F.3d 1062, 1081–82 (9th Cir. 2013) (citation
20 omitted). “Even gross negligence is insufficient to establish deliberate indifference to
21 serious medical needs.” *Id.* at 1082 (citation omitted).

22 The Court previously held that Plaintiff sufficiently stated a medical care claim
23 against Defendant Gatlin, and ordered Defendant Gatlin to answer Count Three of
24 Plaintiff’s Third Amended Complaint. The Court finds that Plaintiff’s attempts to expand
25 the claim to include Defendants Ryan and Shamblin would be futile, as the claims against
26 those defendants would be subject to dismissal under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). Plaintiff
27 has not adequately alleged a claim that Nurse Shamblin was deliberately indifferent to
28 Plaintiff’s serious medical needs. The facts alleged in Plaintiff’s proposed FAC indicate

1 that Nurse Shamblin merely advised Plaintiff that a doctor's appointment would be
2 scheduled the next morning to examine or provide pain medication. Plaintiff alleges that
3 he was seen by a nurse practitioner when he was escorted to medical. If Nurse Shamblin
4 was the one providing Plaintiff's medical care immediately following the assault, there is
5 no allegation that this care was inadequate nor is there a showing that Nurse Shamblin
6 purposefully acted or failed to respond to Plaintiff's serious medical needs, nor any harm
7 caused by the indifference. Plaintiff has not adequately alleged a claim that Nurse
8 Shamblin was deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff's serious medical needs.

9 Plaintiff has not sufficiently alleged a claim that Defendant Ryan himself was
10 deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff's serious medical needs. An individual capacity
11 claim "hinges upon [the individual defendant's] participation in the deprivation of
12 constitutional rights," unlike an official capacity claim, where the constitutional injury
13 "must be attributable to [an] official policy or custom." *Torres v. Goddard*, 793 F.3d
14 1046, 1057 (9th Cir. 2015) (citing *Larez v. City of Los Angeles*, 946 F.2d 630, 645 (9th
15 Cir. 1991)). To state a claim against a defendant, "[a] plaintiff must allege facts, not
16 simply conclusions, that show that an individual was personally involved in the
17 deprivation of his civil rights." *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir.
18 1998). For an individual to be liable in his official capacity, a plaintiff must allege that
19 the official acted as a result of a policy, practice or custom. *See Cortez v. County of Los*
20 *Angeles*, 294 F.3d 1186, 1188 (9th Cir. 2001). Further, there is no *respondeat superior*
21 liability under § 1983, so a defendant's position as the supervisor of someone who
22 allegedly violated a plaintiff's constitutional rights does not make him liable. *Monell*,
23 436 U.S. at 691; *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). A supervisor in his
24 individual capacity, "is only liable for constitutional violations of his subordinates if the
25 supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or knew of the violations and failed
26 to act to prevent them." *Taylor*, 880 F.2d at 1045.

27 Plaintiff has failed to allege facts demonstrating that Defendant Ryan acted with
28 deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's serious medical needs. Plaintiff has not alleged that

1 Defendant Ryan was actually aware of Plaintiff's medical needs, nor do the facts show
2 that Defendant Ryan established policies that resulted in a denial of medical care to
3 Plaintiff. Plaintiff's "allegation of systemwide understaffing is not only vague but also
4 insufficient because a mere delay in medical care, without more, is insufficient to state a
5 claim against prison officials for deliberate indifference under the Eight Amendment."
6 *Olmos v. Stokes*, Case No. CV-10-2564-PHX-GMS, 2011 WL 1792953, at *4 (D. Ariz.
7 May 11, 2011) (citing *Shapley v. Nevada Bd. Of State Prison Comm'rs*, 766 F.2d 404,
8 407 (9th Cir. 1985)).

9 **IV. Threat to Safety or Failure to Protect**

10 The Court previously dismissed Plaintiff's claim for threat to safety or failure to
11 protect, finding that Plaintiff failed to allege facts to support that any of the Defendants
12 knew, or should have known, prior to the September 7 assault, that Garcia posed a
13 substantial threat to Plaintiff. (Doc. 31 at 10). The Court found that Plaintiff's assertion
14 that his name and inmate number were found on three New Mexican Mafia hit lists on
15 November 2 and December 4, 2009, and April 20, 2010, is not sufficient to support that
16 Garcia, or anyone else, posed a substantial threat to Plaintiff's safety on September 7,
17 2011. (Doc. 31 at 10, n.1). The Court further held that:

18 Plaintiff fails to allege any facts to support that Defendants
19 were in any way involved with or aware of his transfer
20 through the basement. Plaintiff also fails to allege facts to
21 support that the lack of surveillance, poor lighting, or
22 inadequate staffing reflected deliberate indifference to a
23 substantial threat to safety. Although Plaintiff has asserted
24 that an inmate was stabbed in the basement one week prior to
25 the assault on Plaintiff, there are no facts to show that the
26 prior attack resulted from any failures on the part of
27 Defendants, or that they were even aware of that incident.
28 Moreover, Plaintiff's assertion that Defendants have "a
practice of failing to inform prisoners of legitimate death
threats to avoid placing prisoners in protective custody" is not
sufficient to support a claim because he does not allege facts
to support that the alleged practice amounted to deliberate
indifference of his constitutional right.

1 (Doc. 31 at 10–11).

2 Plaintiff attempts to cure the deficiency by adding that the 2011 incident itself
3 provided notice of systematic failures and that a series of assaults, rapes, stabbings and
4 murders occurred during Defendant Ryan’s tenure. (Doc. 42 at 16). Plaintiff also alleges
5 that he was assaulted again in 2014. Plaintiff sets forth various instances of inmates who
6 requested protective segregation and were assaulted before protective custody was
7 provided, and gives examples of instances of prison violence, stating that “these issues
8 have been brought to the attention of ADC.”

9 A threat to safety claim requires a sufficiently culpable state of mind by the
10 defendant, known as “deliberate indifference.” *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 835
11 (1994). Deliberate indifference is a higher standard than negligence or lack of ordinary
12 due care for the prisoner’s safety. *Id.* at 835. To state a claim of deliberate indifference,
13 Plaintiff must meet a two-part test. “First, the alleged constitutional deprivation must be,
14 objectively, sufficiently serious”; and the “official’s act or omission must result in the
15 denial of the minimal civilized measure of life’s necessities.” *Id.* at 834 (internal
16 quotations omitted). Second, the prison official must have a “sufficiently culpable state
17 of mind,” i.e., he must act with “deliberate indifference to inmate health or safety.” *Id.*
18 (internal quotations omitted). In defining “deliberate indifference” in this context, the
19 Supreme Court has imposed a subjective test: “the official must both be aware of facts
20 from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists,
21 and he must also draw the inference.” *Id.* at 837 (emphasis added).

22 To state a § 1983 claim based on a policy, practice, or custom, the Plaintiff must
23 show that: (1) plaintiff was deprived of a constitutional right; (2) the entity had a policy
24 or custom; (3) the policy or custom amounted to deliberate indifference to plaintiff’s
25 constitutional right; and (4) the policy or custom was the “moving force behind the
26 constitutional violation.” *Mabe v. San Bernardino Cnty., Dep’t of Pub. Soc. Servs.*, 237
27 F.3d 1101, 1110–11 (9th Cir. 2001) (citation omitted).

1 Plaintiff cannot point to the September 7 assault and an assault in 2014, or
2 unrelated instances of prison violence to show that Defendants were “aware of facts from
3 which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists” or that
4 Defendants actually drew the inference. Clearly they were not aware of the September 7,
5 2011 assault or the 2014 assault prior to the September 7, 2011 assault. Plaintiff does not
6 allege facts to support that any of the Defendants knew, or should have known, prior to
7 the September 7 assault, that inmate Garcia posed a substantial threat to Plaintiff.
8 Plaintiff has failed to allege facts to support an allegation that he was deprived of a
9 constitutional right and that a policy or custom was the “motivating force behind the
10 constitutional violation.” Plaintiff’s attempt to cure the deficiencies set forth in the
11 Court’s prior order is insufficient and the proposed amendment is futile.

12 **V. Due Process**

13 Plaintiff asserts a claim for violation of his Due Process rights against Defendants
14 Gidcumb, Cisneros, Quintero, Washburn and Crabtree. Plaintiff alleges that on
15 September 8, 2011, Defendants issued a false disciplinary report against Plaintiff in order
16 to conceal the September 7th stabbing. Plaintiff was “interrogated” by Defendants
17 Gidcumb and Quintero, and Defendant Quintero accused Plaintiff of “throwing punches
18 at 4A20.” Plaintiff denied that he had instigated the assault and maintained that he was
19 the victim. Defendant Quintero informed Plaintiff that the incident report stated that
20 Plaintiff did throw punches. Defendant Brass stated that inmate Garcia had confessed to
21 the stabbing. Defendants Gidcumb, Cisneros and Quintero did not include in their
22 written reports and disciplinary report that they were not witnesses to the September 7
23 incident. On November 15, 2011, Plaintiff appeared before Defendant Washburn, who
24 would not allow Plaintiff to call witnesses relevant to his defense because Defendant
25 Washburn found that they were “irrelevant.” Therefore, Defendant Washburn convicted
26 Plaintiff without proof that he was guilty of the disciplinary infraction. Plaintiff contends
27 that Defendants Gidcumb, Cisneros, Quintero and Washburn convicted Plaintiff based on
28 “false charges.” Plaintiff was sentenced to a thirty-day loss of privileges and some of

1 Plaintiff's personal property was impounded and subsequently lost. Plaintiff's sentence
2 also included a loss of thirty days of earned release credits, a ninety-day parole class, and
3 thirty extra hours of duty. Plaintiff appealed the disciplinary conviction because the
4 evidence allegedly did not support the conviction and he was denied his due process right
5 to call witnesses. On December 7, 2011, Captain Barnes dismissed the disciplinary
6 conviction because he found that the evidence did not support the conviction. On
7 December 9, 2011, Defendant Crabtree "by and through [Defendant] Ryan forfeited
8 eleven (11) earned release credit days for the alleged assault on inmate Garcia despite the
9 conviction being overturn[ed]." Plaintiff claims Defendants did not ensure that the
10 disciplinary charge was expunged, which resulted in that disciplinary charge acting "as a
11 springboard for aggravating subsequent disciplinary hearings."

12 Liberty interests which are protected by the Due Process Clause are "generally
13 limited to freedom from restraint which, while not exceeding the sentence in such an
14 unexpected manner as to give rise to protection by the Due Process Clause of its own
15 force . . . nonetheless imposes atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation
16 to the ordinary incidents of prison life." *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995)
17 (internal citations omitted).

18 The Court previously held that Plaintiff was not entitled to any due process
19 procedural protections because he did not suffer any atypical and significant hardships.
20 (Doc. 31 at 11) (citing *Sandlin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 487 (1995) (30 days'
21 disciplinary segregation is not atypical and significant); *Smith v. Mensinger*, 293 F.3d
22 641, 654 (3rd Cir. 2002) (seven months of disciplinary confinement "does not, on its
23 own, violate a protected liberty interest"); *Jones v. Baker*, 155 F.3d 810 (6th Cir. 1998)
24 (two and one-half years' administrative segregation is not atypical and significant); *Rizzo*
25 *v. Dawson*, 778 F.2d 527, 530 (9th Cir. 1985) (prison authorities may change a prisoner's
26 "place of confinement even though the degree of confinement may be different and
27 prison life may be more disagreeable in one institution than in another" without violating
28 a prisoner's due process rights); *Lucero v. Russell*, 741 F.2d 1129 (9th Cir. 1984)

(administrative transfer to maximum security without a hearing does not infringe on any protected liberty interest)). The Court also held that Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to a particular security classification or to be housed in a particular yard. (Doc. 31 at 12) (citing *Meachum v. Fano*, 427 U.S. 215, 224 (1976); *Hernandez v. Johnston*, 833 F.2d 1316, 1318 (9th Cir. 1987); *Harbin-Bey v. Rutter*, 420 F.3d 571, 577 (6th Cir. 2005) (increase in security classification does not constitute an atypical and significant hardship because “a prisoner has no constitutional right to remain incarcerated in a particular prison or to be held in a specific security classification”)).

In his FAC, Plaintiff re-alleges the facts that the Court previously found insufficient to show that Plaintiff suffered any atypical and significant hardship. Plaintiff also alleges that he suffers from a pre-existing mental illness and that the isolated confinement of prisoners with serious mental illness violates the Eighth Amendment. Even considering this allegation as a separate Eighth Amendment claim, Plaintiff fails to state a claim. Plaintiff states that “ADC security have classified Plaintiff with a serious mental health needs score of 3R, which requires a routine level of mental health services. Plaintiff continues to deteriorate while experiencing decreased cognitive functioning, severe depression, pepper sprayed repeatedly by chemical agents while on psychotropic medications and inadequate nutrition.” (Doc. 42 at 25). Plaintiff has failed to show that a defendant was “deliberately indifferent” to the Plaintiff’s “serious medical need.” *See Hinkley v. Shumate*, ___ F. App’x ___, 2015 WL 5173040, at *1 (9th Cir. Sept. 4, 2015) (citing *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1994) (“[A] prison official cannot be found liable under the Eighth Amendment . . . unless the official knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health or safety[.]”); *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207 (9th Cir. 2011) (a supervisor is liable under § 1983 only if he is personally involved in the constitutional deprivation or there is a “sufficient causal connection between the supervisor’s wrongful conduct and the constitutional violation” (citation and internal quotation marks omitted)); *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 633 (9th Cir. 1988) (the causation analysis under § 1983 is “individualized and focus[es] on the duties and

responsibilities of each individual defendant whose acts or omissions are alleged to have caused a constitutional deprivation”)). “Vague and conclusory allegations of official participation in civil rights violations are not sufficient to withstand a motion to dismiss.” *Ivey v. Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Alaska*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982) (citations omitted). A liberal interpretation of a *pro se* civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements of the claim that were not initially pled. *Id.*

VI. Request for Entry of Default

Plaintiff filed a Request for Entry of Default (Doc. 46), arguing that default should be entered against Defendant Gatlin for failure to defend. The Court’s Order (Doc. 31) entered on April 20, 2015, ordered Defendant Gatlin to answer Count Three of Plaintiff’s Third Amended Complaint. Before Defendant Gatlin was served, Plaintiff filed the current motion for leave to amend (Doc. 42) on June 12, 2015. Service was returned executed on Defendant Gatlin on July 21, 2015. Plaintiff’s request for entry of default should be denied and Defendant Gatlin should be ordered to answer Count Three of Plaintiff’s Third Amended Complaint at Doc. 29.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to Amend (Doc. 42), seeking leave to file the attached Fourth Amended Complaint, be denied.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that Plaintiff’s Request for Entry of Default (Doc. 46) be denied, and Defendant Gatlin be ordered to answer Count Three of Plaintiff’s Third Amended Complaint (Doc. 29) within 21 days of the District Court’s Order ruling on this Report and Recommendation.

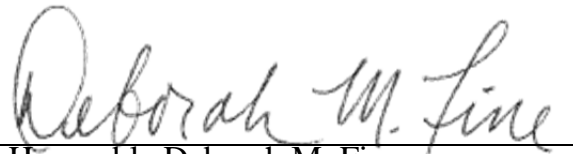
This recommendation is not an order that is immediately appealable to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Any notice of appeal pursuant to Rule 4(a)(1), Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, should not be filed until entry of the District Court’s judgment.

Pursuant to Rule 72(b), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the parties shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of service of a copy of this recommendation within which to file specific written objections with the Court. Thereafter, the parties have fourteen (14) days within which to file a response to the objections. Pursuant to Rule 7.2,

1 Local Rules of Civil Procedure for the United States District Court for the District of
2 Arizona, objections to the Report and Recommendation may not exceed seventeen (17)
3 pages in length.

4 Failure to timely file objections to any factual or legal determinations of the
5 Magistrate Judge will be considered a waiver of a party's right to de novo appellate
6 consideration of the issues. *See United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th
7 Cir. 2003) (en banc). Failure to timely file objections to any factual or legal
8 determinations of the Magistrate Judge will constitute a waiver of a party's right to
9 appellate review of the findings of fact and conclusions of law in an order or judgment
10 entered pursuant to the recommendations of the Magistrate Judge.

11 Dated this 14th day of September, 2015.

12
13
14 
15 Honorable Deborah M. Fine
United States Magistrate Judge
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28